

complete copy of the claims in “marked up” form showing the deletions and additions is provided on separate pages after this amendment and response.

CLAIMS IN “CLEAN” FORM

- 1 1. (Amended) A release control method for providing early deployment releases of a
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new
3 features and platforms, the method comprising the steps of:
4 a. providing an early development branch of the software system that is
5 designated for incorporation of one or more software modules providing
6 support for new features and platforms;
7 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested
8 software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;
11 c. committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch; and
13 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development
14 release containing pre-tested software modules for new features and
15 platforms.

- 1 2. (Amended) The release control method of claim 1 comprising the additional step
2 of repeating steps c and d on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of
3 cycles.

- 1 3. (Amended) The release control method of claim 1 wherein the pre-tested software
2 module is received at a pre-integration branch that is separate from the early
3 development branch, and wherein the committing step comprises committing pre-
4 tested software modules for new features and platforms from a pre-integration
5 branch into the early development branch.

- 1 8. (Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a software
2 system, the early deployment releases containing support for new features and
3 platforms, comprising:
4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new
6 features and platforms;
7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;
11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch;
13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of
16 cycles; and
17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles.

- 1 9. (Amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the logic for committing comprises
2 logic for committing pre-tested software modules for new features and platforms
3 from a pre-integration branch into the early development branch.

- 1 14. (Amended) A product release method for controlling the release of software
2 system code based on a fixed frequency, the method comprising the steps of:
3 a. selecting one or more features for inclusion in a new release of the
4 software system code base, wherein a quantity of features selected will allow a
5 next scheduled release of the software system code base to be completed at a
6 required time;
7 b. testing the quantity of features selected in a plurality of business units;

- 8 c. providing the quantity of features selected to a pre-integration branch of
- 9 the software system code base only when testing in the business units is
- 10 successful;
- 11 d. testing the quantity of features selected in the pre-integration branch;
- 12 e. providing the quantity of features selected to a development branch only
- 13 when testing in the business units is successful and in time to allow the next
- 14 scheduled release of the software system code base to be completed in the
- 15 required time.

- 1 15. (Not Amended) The method of claim 14 comprising the additional steps of:
- 2 a. completing testing of a modified software system code base in the
- 3 development branch which contains the quantity of features selected and
- 4 tested in the pre-integration branch; and
- 5 b. releasing the modified software system code base at the required time.

- 1 19. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- 2 receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new
- 3 features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-
- 4 integration branches;
- 5 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
- 6 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
- 7 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
- 8 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
- 9 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
- 10 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
- 11 the central pre-integration branches.

- 1 20. (New) A method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising the step of generating,
- 2 using the early development branch, a new early development release containing
- 3 pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only when the plurality of

4 software source code modules has been committed from the central pre-
5 integration branch to the early development branch.

1 21. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or
3 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration
4 branches;
5 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of
6 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature
7 individually, and in combination with all other features;
8 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
9 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
10 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
11 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
12 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
13 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
14 the central pre-integration branches.

1 22. (New) A method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising the step of generating,
2 using the early development branch, a new early development release containing
3 pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only when the plurality of
4 software source code modules has been committed from the central pre-
5 integration branch to the early development branch.

1 23. (New) A computer-readable medium comprising one or more stored sequences of
2 instructions for providing release control using early deployment releases of a
3 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new
4 features and platforms, which instructions, when executed by one or more
5 processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
6 a. providing an early development branch of a software release that is
7 designated for incorporation of support for new features and platforms;

- 8 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested
- 9 source code modules, wherein each of the pre-tested source code modules
- 10 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
- 11 platforms;
- 12 c. committing the pre-tested source code for new features and platforms into
- 13 the early development branch; and
- 14 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development
- 15 release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms.

- 1 24. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising
- 2 the steps of:
- 3 receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new
- 4 features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-
- 5 integration branches;
- 6 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
- 7 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
- 8 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
- 9 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
- 10 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
- 11 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
- 12 the central pre-integration branches.

- 1 25. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24, further comprising
- 2 the step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early
- 3 development release containing pre-tested source code for new features and
- 4 platforms only when the plurality of software source code modules has been
- 5 committed from the central pre-integration branch to the early development
- 6 branch.

1 26. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 23, further comprising
2 the steps of:
3 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or
4 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration
5 branches;
6 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of
7 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature
8 individually, and in combination with all other features;
9 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
10 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
11 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
12 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
13 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
14 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
15 the central pre-integration branches.

1 27. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24, further comprising
2 the step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early
3 development release containing pre-tested source code for new features and
4 platforms only when the plurality of software source code modules has been
5 committed from the central pre-integration branch to the early development
6 branch.

1 28. (New) A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new
3 features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-
4 integration branches;
5 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
6 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
7 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and

8 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
9 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
10 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
11 the central pre-integration branches.

1 29. (New) A system as recited in Claim 28, further comprising the step of generating,
2 using the early development branch, a new early development release containing
3 pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only when the plurality of
4 software source code modules has been committed from the central pre-
5 integration branch to the early development branch.

1 30. (New) A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or
3 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration
4 branches;
5 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of
6 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature
7 individually, and in combination with all other features;
8 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
9 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
10 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
11 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
12 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
13 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
14 the central pre-integration branches.

1 31. (New) A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the step of generating,
2 using the early development branch, a new early development release containing
3 pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only when the plurality of
4 software source code modules has been committed from the central pre-
5 integration branch to the early development branch.